

At the time of the war of the Revolution there were three brothers living in Chatham, N. C.

JOHN, MATTHEW & AMBROSE RAMSEY

AMBROSE lived and died a bachelor. He was a prominent and active man during and after the war. Ambrose Ramsey and John Birdsong were members from Chatham at a meeting of the delegates at Hillsboro assembled Aug. 21, 1775, to organize a State government and take measures for opposing the Royal government. At this meeting Ambrose Ramsey was appointed one of the Field officers for Chatham with rank of colonel.

AMBROSE RAMSEY AND John Birdsong were also members of the Provincial Congress at Halifax in November, 1776, which formed the State Constitution.

AMBROSE RAMSEY was also a member of the State Senate from 1777 to 1781, inclusive.

See Wheeler's History of N. E. 1. pp. 74, 78, 85  
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He must have been promoted to a Brigadier General later as he was known as General Ramsey. In Caruthers' book the "Old North State", page 140, in an account of a capture by Fanning of a number of men at Pittsboro, (which Wheeler says were members of a Court Martial - 2;85) whom he was taking as prisoners to Wilmington, it is related that "of the prisoners three, John Williams, GEN. AMBROSE RAMSEY, and Col. Griffiths, were permitted to ride, he taking their word of honor not to desert him"; this was July 8, 1781.

I have no record of the time of his death.

The second brother, MATTHEW RAMSEY, was born about 1748. Married Ann Scurlock Nov. 19, 1780. Died Jan. 21, 1807. Wife died in 1833. Their children as follows:

1. James Ramsey, born March 15, 1783; died Sept. 22, 1800.
2. Mial Ramsey, born March 4, 1785; died 1835; married Sallie Goldston; moved to Tennessee in 1826; his wife died Nov. 12, 1965.
3. John Ramsey, born Nov. 28, 1788; died at Rock River, Miss., in 1826.
4. Sarah Ramsey, born May 28, 1790; married Aaron Evans Sept. 28, 1808; died Nov. 1, 1816.
5. Ambrose Ramsey; died in infancy.
6. AMBROSE KNOX, born Jan. 22, 1795; died Dec. 1, 1885; married Nancy G. Yancy Oct. 7, 1817; she was born Aug. 19, 1798; died Jan. 18, 1858.
7. Joseph Ramsey, born June 16, 1797; died Sept. 3, 1847; married Elizabeth Stedman

Nov. 1, 1821. This Joseph Ramsey was father of N. A. Ramsey (cousin "Elic") who died in Durham, N. C., in 1906.

8. Ann C. Ramsey born June 4, 1801; married W. C. Stedman Aug. 5, 1817; died Feb. 3, 1829. She was the mother of Rev. J. D. Stedman, who was pastor of the 1st Presbyterian church, and also of the Alabama Street Presbyterian church, Memphis, Tenn., and who died in 1882. In "Roll of Officers and privates detached from the 1st or Southern Battalion of Militia of the County of Orange to march against the hostile Indians under command of COL. AMBROSE RAMSEY, April 22, 1776", MATTHEW RAMSEY is mentioned as captain. The entry is as follows:

"Matthew Ramsey, Capt. of 9th Regt., Nov. 30, 1776."

Manuscript Record in office of Secretary of State, P. 944-942.

In Heitman's Historical Register of officers of Continental Army from 1775 to Dec., 1783, his name appears as follows:

"Matthew Ramsey, N. C. Capt. 9th N. C. 28 Nov. 1776 - resigned 1781."

John Ramsey served in the American Army. The only record of his military service is found in the "Manuscript Record" in the office of Secretary of State where his name appears in the following entry:

"John Ramsey private 10th Regt. Transferred 1, Dec., 1782."

He married Elizabeth Bridson, sister of John Birdsong, who is mentioned above as a member from Chatham in the Convention of Delegates at Hillsboro and of the Congress at Halifax.

He died in July, 1801. He left seven children who were as follows:

1. John A. Ramsey, died young and unmarried.
2. Lydia " married Archibald McBryde
3. Fannie " " John Tyson
4. Ann (Nancy) " Philip Alston
5. Mary " " David Reid

6. Jane Ramsey Married Murdoch McMillan

7. Sammie " " Thom. McCarroll

John Ramsey's will recorded in Register's office of Chatham County, contains following codicil:

"I, John Ramsey, do hereby publish and declare the following as a codicil to my last will and testament. Whereas, in my last will I divided all my lands - - - to be equally divided among all my daughters.

Now my will still is that all my land in the Indian (county) near or on the Chickasaw Bluff, which I will and devise to my son John A. Ramsey, and all my daughters share and share alike - and further my will and desire is to leave it in the power of my Executors to sell my claim to the above land on the Chickasaw Bluff, should they think it most prudent to do so for the benefit of my children, etc.

In witness whereof I have set my hand fixed my seal this 27th day of July, 1801.

John Ramsey"

The land referred to as on the Chickasaw Bluff is what is known as the "Ramsey Grant" consisting of 5,000 acres on which the southern part of the city of Memphis now stands.

John Overton in some way acquired a 1/7 interest in it. I understand that he was a sort of land agent out here who assisted the people in N. C. to locate their lands and probably got this 1/7 for his services. The grant issued by the State of Tenn. April 13, 1823 and is as follows:

\$\$Grant No. 19060"

"In consideration of Warrant No. 393, dated June 24, 1784, issued to John Ramsey for 5,000 acres and entered Oct. 25, 1783, these is granted to John Ramsey and John Overton, Assignee, 5000 acres of land in Shelby County, Tenn., in Range 8 & 9, Sec. 1 & 2, on the Mississippi River, to said John Ramsey 4,288-5/7 and to said Overton 714-2/7 acres."

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Not one of the descendants of John Ramsey own a foot of his land, except what they have bought.

In the Register's office of Chatham County there is on record the following petition: "The petition of Archibald McBryde and Lydia, his wife. Thos. McCarroll as guardian of his three children, James, Elizabeth, and John David Reid, Mary Reid, Philip Alston and Ann, his wife, and Jane and Fanny Ramsey as infants by Archibald McBryde their guardian; that about the last of July, 1801, John Ramsey departed his life leaving issue seven children, viz; your partitioners, Lydia McBryde, Sally McCarroll, deceased, mother of aforesaid James, Elizabeth and John McCarroll, Mary Reid, Ann Alson and said infants Jane, Fanny and John Ambrose Ramsey, of whom Joseph Minter is appointed guardian."

This is all I have of this. I suppose it was a partition proceeding. From this we learn that Aunt Sallie McCarroll had died leaving three minor children, old cousin John who lived at Holly Springs is the only one of these I ever heard of. His two daughters live at Holly Springs, his son John in Memphis and Manager of Dunn's Agency.

All the other Ramsey sisters with their families moved to West Tennessee, I presume, between the 30's and 40's. Aunt Lydia McBryde and Aunt Fanny Tyson were widows. The McMillans settled at Memphis, and all the others in Madison County near Denmark. Their descendants are all over the country.

Ambrose Knox Ramsey married Nancy Yancy, from this union issued the following: Thos. Yancy, Jas. Bartlett, Ambrose Knox, Mary Graves, Minerva Ann, John Milton, Bartlett Yancy, Matthew, Edward Tyson.

*Marvin*

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